

Appn No. 09/575,181
Amdt. Dated March 15, 2005
Response to Office Action of January 25, 2005

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REMARKS

The Office Action has been carefully considered. The issues raised are traversed and addressed below with reference to the relevant headings and paragraph numbers appearing under the Detailed Action of the Office Action.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

In response to the Examiner's objections raised in this section the term "substantially" has been removed from the specified claims. In order to therefore further clarify the invention a number of further changes have been made to the claim to specify the steps performed in printing substantially simultaneously and this will be discussed in more detail below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

In view of the rejections raised by the Examiner in this section, claim 1 has been revised to specify that the computer system provides print data to a printer, the print data being indicative of information relating to a payment transaction and an identity. A basis for this amendment can be found, for example, on page 24 of the specification, which highlights how the printer receives printed pages by receiving text and image objects, and page 69 which discusses the printer generating tag data content based on the page ID during rasterisation.

Thus, these portions of the specification highlight that the computer system provides the information and the identity to the printer to allow the printer to then print the form. Applicant respectfully submits that this clarifies the nature of the form being printed by printing the information and coded data substantially simultaneously, without requiring reference to the term substantially. This also clarifies that the procedure is performed using a single printer. Applicant believes that this helps overcome the issues highlighted by the Examiner on page 7 of the Office Action, that, previously phrased, the information and coded data being printed simultaneously was merely non-functional descriptive material. Thus, the claim as revised now includes a definitive functional step of providing print data to the printer thereby causing the printer to print the information and coded data.

In addition to this, and in order to define further distinctions over the cited prior art, claim 1 has also been revised to specify that at least some of the coded data is coincident with the

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information. A basis for this can be found, for example, in Figure 1 and the associated description.

Accordingly, the claim now relates to a system which involves a printer printing both information and coincident coded data based on the received print data and we respectfully submit that this is not taught or suggested by the cited documents.

In particular, as acknowledged by the Examiner, Perazza does not disclose printing substantially simultaneously. In addition to this, the coded data described in Perazza is in the form of visible coded data barcodes. As a result of this, it is not possible to provide the coded data coincident with any of the information as this would render the information illegible, as well as rendering the coded data undetectable by a sensing device.

There is nothing within the teaching of Mallicoat which would teach or suggest the claimed arrangement.

Turning now to the Xerox reference, we note that the Examiner has highlighted that the Xerox reference includes substantially invisible coded data. We therefore acknowledge that this could be provided coincident with information. However, we would like to draw the Examiner's attention to the fact that the Xerox reference explicitly states on pages 8 and 9 that the printed pages are provided by having a coded substrate supplier produce sheets of paper including the coded data in the form of UV markings. This constitutes a first printing step which is performed by a first printer. The coded substrate supplier then provides the sheets to a publisher who prints in standard ink, information. This corresponds to a second and separate subsequent printing step which is performed by a second printer.

Accordingly, the Xerox reference does not describe a printer which receives print data indicative of both information and an identity, and which uses this to print both information and coded data.

Furthermore, even if the teaching of Perazza and the Xerox reference are combined, the combination of the documents does not teach or suggest any process which would allow printing of coincident coded data and information by a single printer, as now claimed.

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In view of this, we respectfully submit that claim 1 is now patentable over the cited art.

In view of the amendments made to claim 1 similar amendments have been made to the remaining independent claims which we therefore also submit are patentable over the cited art.

We reserve the right to comment further on the dependent claims in due course should the Examiner maintain the objections.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the objections and claim rejections have been successfully traversed and addressed. The amendments do not involve adding any information that was not already disclosed in the specification, and therefore no new matter is added. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the claims 1 to 65, and the application as a whole with these claims, are allowable, and a favourable reconsideration is therefore earnestly solicited.

Very respectfully,

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